GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7041
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
DIVERSIFICATION AND INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the huge food stocks available in the country, the farmers have resorted to diversification in agriculture from food crops to cash crops and other allied activities like livestock and fisheries etc.;

(b) if so, whether the production of cereals and pulses has fallen and that of fruits and vegetables have increased as a result thereof;

(c) whether the investment in agriculture sector has also fallen;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the diversification and the low investment in agriculture sector does not affect the production of foodgrains in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The Government consciously put thrust on crop diversification in the larger interests of the farmers and agriculture sector. There is a long term upward trend in the production of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables as also of milk, eggs and wool etc.

(c) & (d): The gross capital formation in agriculture sector during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (Quick Estimates) is estimated to be Rs.26111 crores and Rs.27038 crores respectively which does not show a declining trend.

(e): To increase agricultural production and productivity of various crops including foodgrains, the Government have launched various new initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network and National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies. Apart from these, the Government have also switched over from the conventional schematic approach to macro-management mode from November, 2000 for providing assistance to the States. The Macro-Management Scheme integrates 27 schemes into

one for supplementing and complementing the efforts of State Governments through work plans. This gives flexibility to States to address their respective specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture.